



Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

Advanced Systems & Concepts

SUCCESS STORY

JCTD's Modular Containers Enable Faster "Factory-to-Foxhole" Shipments

AS&C's Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD) program has demonstrated, and is in the process of transitioning for use, modular containers that can be transferred rapidly from trucks, trains, planes and ships. The new containers will ensure the efficient, seamless, and visible movement of supplies through the distribution system to tactical end-users.



Old containers ...



new modular containers



To date, military shipments have been a "box-in-a-box," which came in all shapes and sizes. Consequently, their movement from origin to destination requires intensive and inefficient handling and re-packing caused by incompatible air and ground cargo systems, and sorting, storing and/or reconfiguring cargo. The Joint Modular Intermodal Distribution System (JMIDS) JCTD has demonstrated a uniform modular container called the Joint Modular Intermodal Container. It replaces the box-in-a-box packaging and its uniformity makes it easier to transfer amongst different transportation modes. The container is also smaller than 20-foot ISO containers, enabling more flexible stowage and transport on tactical vehicles, Navy vessels, and forward depots. And, the modular containers are collapsible, reducing logistics "iron mountains" in operating areas.



Modular container...



in collapsible form

The Marine Corps has bought, and plans to buy more, modular containers. The U.S. Army has used the containers at the National Training Center and discovered they are easier to secure on vehicles and offer better cargo protection than current packaging. U.S. Army's 7th Sustainment Brigade deployed with them to Southwest Asia and will be using them in theater. The containers will be evaluated for sustainment operations in a future demonstration involving the Defense Logistics Agency and the 7th Sustainment Brigade. The containers are also currently being demonstrated in the United Kingdom. The JCTD is conducted in partnership with U.S. Transportation Command, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Marine Corps. The JMIDS JCTD also was the recipient of the JCTD Operational Manager of the Year Award for 2007.

For more information on the JCTD program, visit its website at www.acq.osd.mil/jctd/.